

Bush-Cheney Actions Proliferate Hotspots

As the political screws turn ever tighter on the Cheney-Bush Administration, the Cheney warmongers have worked overtime to create new flashpoints internationally, in order to maintain their policy of “perpetual war.” As *EIR* has documented abundantly, Cheney’s Hitlerian philosophy calls for maintaining a permanent state of crisis, the better to justify the dictatorship which he wants to put in place.

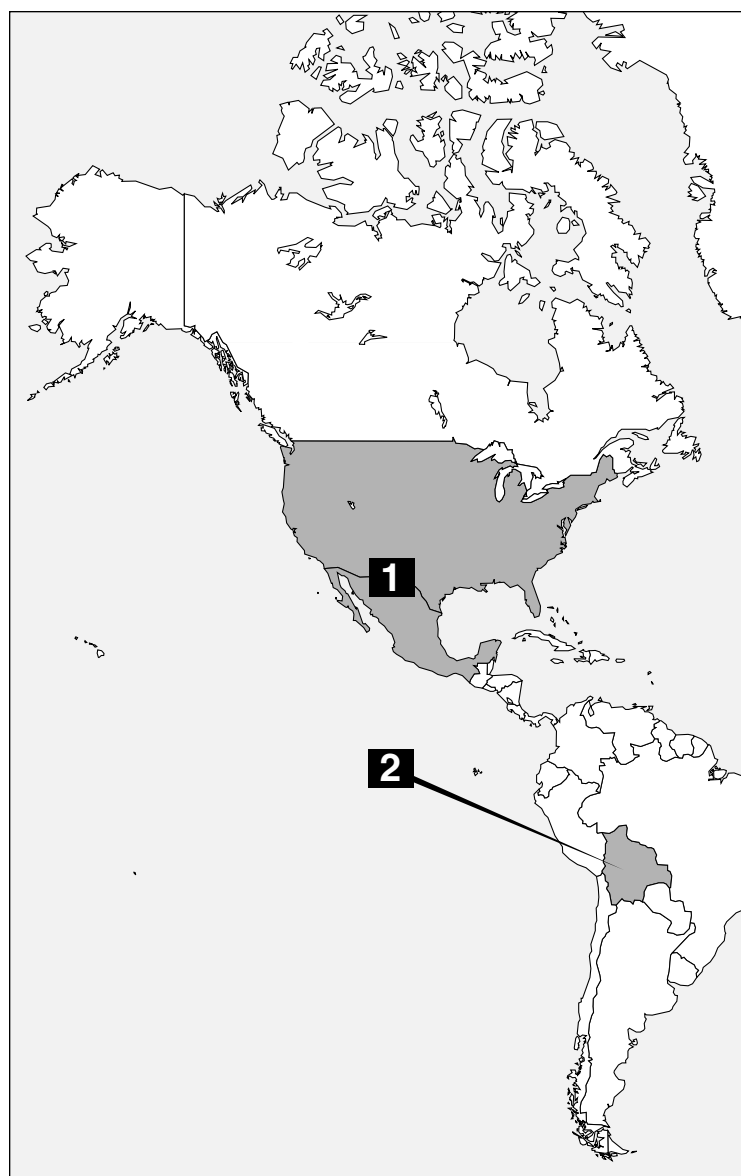
No later than Jan. 3, 2001, Lyndon LaRouche identified this thrust of the Cheney Administration, when he said:

“What you’re going to get with a frustrated Bush Administration, if it’s determined to prevent itself from being opposed, you’re going to get crisis management. Where special warfare types, of the secret government, the secret police treasuries, will set off provocations, which will be used to bring about dictatorial powers, in the name of crisis management. You will have small wars set off in various parts of the world, which the Bush Administration will respond to with crisis management methods of provocation.”

The accompanying map of hotspots, compiled as of Jan. 5, coheres with precisely that pattern—one that can only end with Cheney’s removal.

1. Mexico: Tensions are being dramatically increased on the Mexican-U.S. border by an insane, and increasingly violent, U.S. crackdown on immigration. In the context of the deployment of drug gangs and paramilitaries, this Cheneyac policy could easily spark terrorism, or shooting wars.

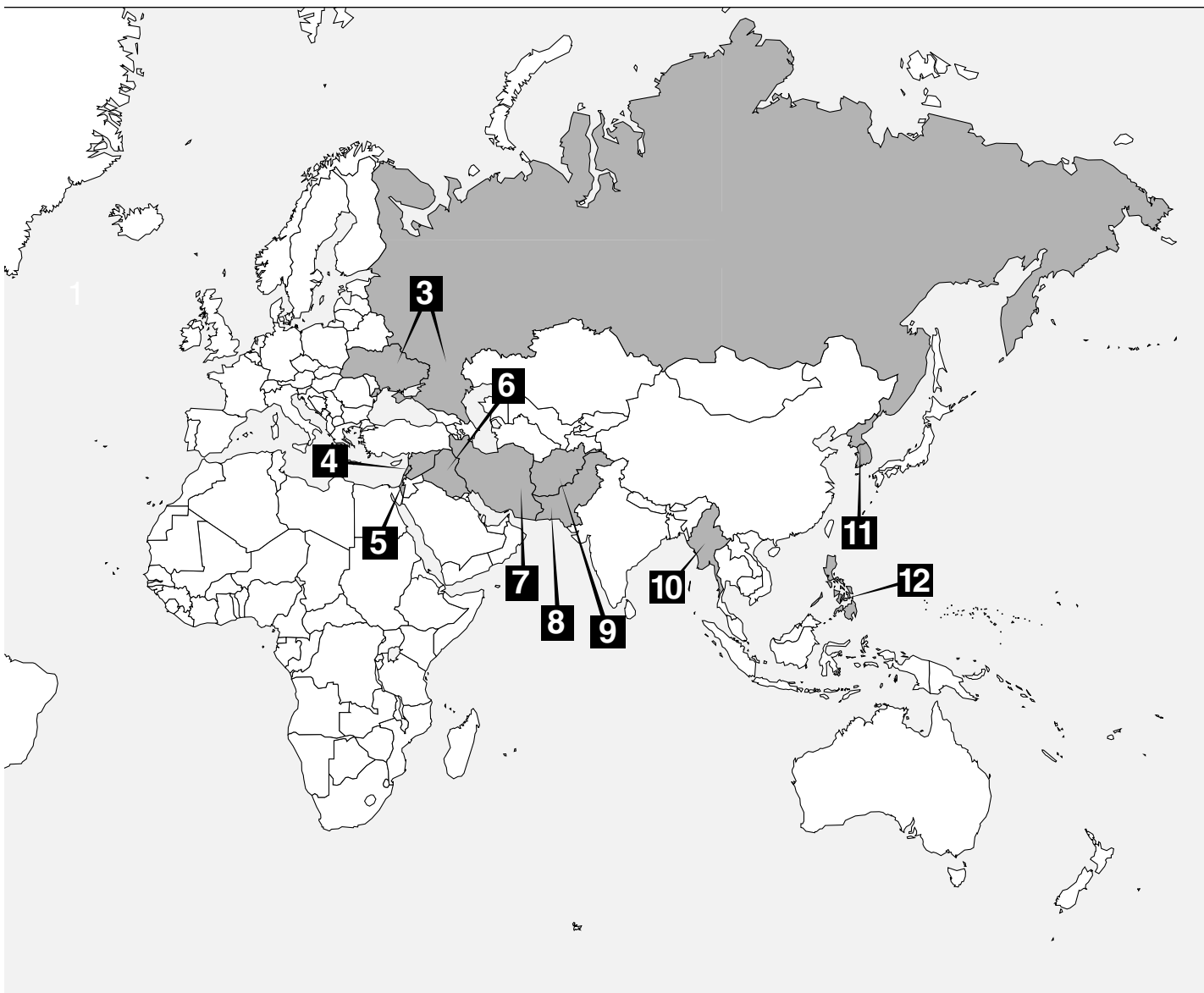
2. Bolivia: The election of Cocalero leader Evo Morales as President, has further heated up rhetoric and tensions in the Andean region, which the Bush Administration has targeted for multinational police action. (See article.)



3. Ukraine/Russia: The confrontation between Russia and Ukraine over the price of natural gas, has temporarily been resolved, but it reflects a more aggressive attitude by the Kremlin toward provocations being waged on Russia’s borders.

4. Lebanon/Syria: Cheney/neo-con forces in the Bush Administration are continuing to push for confrontation with Syria, using the issue of the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Further assassinations have kept the pressure on Syria, and the latest “revelations,” by a French-allied former Syrian official, are furthering tensions. (See article.)

5. Palestine-Israel: The Israeli government



has launched new aggressive actions, including targeted assassinations, in the Gaza Strip, on the virtual eve of the Palestinian legislative elections. The Israelis and the U.S. Congress have also interfered in those elections in various ways, including demands that the Hamas group be prevented from participating. The situation is on the edge of blowup, which Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's incapacitation is unlikely to assuage.

6. Iraq: In the wake of the much-touted "democratic" elections on Dec. 15, a new government is nowhere near being formed, and the insurgency is taking lives and disrupting the economy, at an extraordinary pace.

7. Iran: Negotiations over Iran's nuclear program

are continuing, between Iran and the EU-3, amid increasingly hot rhetoric from both sides. On the one side, President Ahmedinejad is de facto provoking Israel, with inflammatory statements, while, on the other side, the Cheneyacs, and some Israelis, are calling for pre-emptive strikes against Iran's nuclear program. Only a Russian proposal currently seems to provide an interim solution. (See article.)

8. Pakistan: Rioting by tribesmen in the Balochistan province is leading the Pakistani government to take harsh crackdown measures, and to blame Iran for the unrest, raising the possibility of regional conflict.

9. Afghanistan: Violence has definitely been on the rise in this Cheney "success" story, with the

emergence of suicide bombings and Taliban raids against the occupiers.

10. Myanmar: President Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and UN Ambassador John Bolton have issued threats not only against Myanmar itself, but to the rest of the nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), for refusing to join the United States in sanctions and political subversion activities against Myanmar. Meeting with several ASEAN members on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in November, Bush and Rice referred to Myanmar as “one of the worst regimes in the world.” ASEAN’s chairman countered that they would “continue the engagement with Myanmar.” In December, Bolton demanded that Myanmar be placed on the agenda of the UN Security Council, on the basis that Myanmar was a “threat to international peace and security.” The Security Council rejected this absurd claim, insisting that only ASEAN should determine whether Myanmar is a threat. Myanmar has begun the process of moving its national capital from Yangon to Pyinmana in the interior, reportedly concerned about the vulnerability of Yangon to U.S. military threats.

11. Korea: After what appeared to be a substantial breakthrough in the Six-Party talks concerning North Korea in mid-September, the Cheney faction has effectively derailed further talks. U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill, who had reached tentative agreements with Pyongyang, was replaced in late October by Ambassador Alexander Vershbow. When Vershbow, on Dec. 7, called North Korea a “criminal regime,” the chances of Pyongyang returning to the negotiating table went to near-zero, and saber-rattling is again the order of the day.

12. Philippines: Five thousand U.S. troops are landing in Mindanao in February, for joint military “exercises” in the live combat zones of the largely Islamic southern islands of the Philippines, despite explicit constitutional restrictions against foreign military operations on Philippine soil. These largest-yet “exercises” come as the neo-cons’ assets in Manila—former President Fidel Ramos and House Speaker Jose De Venecia—are trying to force the convening of a Constitutional Convention, aimed at: scrapping the Presidential system, allowing a virtual dictatorship free of checks and balances from the Congress; removing the few remaining restrictions on foreign control of the Philippine economy; and (although not admitted publicly) allowing the re-establishment of U.S. military bases, as required by Cheney’s perpetual war doctrine.